

# EARTH DAY

## NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

*Earth Day,  
April 22*

*National  
Environmental  
Education Week,  
3rd week in April*

*Classroom  
Enrichment  
from the  
National  
Library of  
Medicine*



Online resources for teachers and students  
at the high school and college level



## *Your Health and the Environment*

Making plans for Earth Day? National Library of Medicine resources can help with student-friendly information on human health and the environment, plus pollution and toxic chemicals. See the online **Teacher Pages** for details on the activities suggested below.

### **Do you have a healthy environment INSIDE your school?**

Students and teachers need clean indoor air to be alert and healthy. Go to the **Tox Town** neighborhood in **Tox Town** and click on the school building and school bus for information on air pollution and on chemicals you might find in a school.

### **What toxic chemicals might be in your community?**

Sources of pollution can be very different from one community to another. For local information, students can type in a ZIP code at **TOXMAP** to find out what chemicals are used in industries within 10 miles. They can also find out about nearby toxic waste (Superfund) sites scheduled for clean-up.

### **How does the environment affect the quality of your drinking water?**

Water "flows" through a lot before it comes out the tap. **Tox Town's** Port neighborhood shows urban runoff, wastewater treatment facilities, cesspools, sewers, septic systems, and industrial activities that can affect water quality.



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## Highlighted Resources

### *For Teachers*

#### **Teacher page**

<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/teacher.html>

#### **Especially for . . .**

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/especiallystudents.html>

### *High School and up*

#### **Tox Town**

<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov>  
<http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/espanol>

#### **TOXMAP**

<http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov>

#### **Household Products**

<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov>

#### **MedlinePlus**

<http://medlineplus.gov>

#### **Hazardous Substances Data Bank**

<http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?HSDB>

### *Elementary School*

#### **ToxMystery**

<http://toxmystery.nlm.nih.gov>

### *About Earth Day*

#### **Earth Day**

<http://www.earthday.net/>

#### **National Environmental Education Week**

<http://www.eeweek.org/>



### **Where does ozone come from?**

Go to one of the five **Tox Town** neighborhoods and click on "ozone" to see where ozone might be found. To learn how ozone might affect one's health, go to the **MedlinePlus** page on ozone. The page includes ozone maps as well as materials for children and teens.

### **What chemicals are in the cleaners or bug sprays in your home? Are they dangerous?**

Many household products have dangerous ingredients. Students can learn to look for warning labels, identify nontoxic products, and follow safety instructions. Ask students to make a list of household products they find at home or at school and look them up in the **Household Products Database** for safety information. Elementary students can play the **ToxMystery** game, in both English and Spanish, to track down hazards in a home.

### **What if it happened in your town?**

Nearly every day news stories report on a toxic chemical spill, an illegal dump, a dangerous chemical fire, and other potential environmental disasters. Based on one of these real-life stories, students can look up detailed chemical information in the **Hazardous Substances Data Bank**. Playing various roles, the student-mayor will then have the information to decide whether to evacuate the town, the fire chief can determine the protective gear needed by the firefighters, and the student-citizens can hold a town meeting to plan the clean-up.



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